

IOWA ARTIST  
Susan Chrysler White

TITLE Thought Provoking Pieces

GRADE LEVEL  
Elementary | Middle | High School

These lesson plans are designed for art educators to adapt to the needs of their individual classes.

#### INFLUENCED BY ARTISTS

Richard Diebenkorn  
Joan Mitchell

#### MATERIALS

Paper for artwork  
Kraft paper to transfer paint  
Various colors of paint in squeeze bottles  
Scrap magazines, cards, newspapers, posters, etc. for decals



Iowa artist Susan Chrysler White  
**Opium Prism**, 2004–06

## LESSON PLAN: ELEMENTARY | MIDDLE | HIGH SCHOOL

# Susan Chrysler White

### OVERVIEW

Creation of thought provoking art and the popular methods of Pop Art and optical art from the sixties inspire and influence the work of Iowa artist Susan Chrysler White. Using paint and sculptural installations, Ms. Chrysler White hopes to inspire viewers to see in her work what may not be there. In this lesson students will create abstract paintings infused with collage and discuss how art moves, inspires and influences each of us in different ways.

Preview Susan Chrysler White's **Biography**, **Video Synopsis**, **Video** and **Images** of her work on the Iowa Arts Council web site [www.iowaartscouncil.org/](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org/) and select resources appropriate for your adaptation of this lesson. Have students locate the artist's place of residence on an Iowa map.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What inspires and influences Iowa artist Susan Chrysler White?
- How does Iowa artist Susan Chrysler White inspire you?
- What else inspires and influences you?

### INTRODUCTION

The lesson will begin with the teacher showing students an image of Ms. Chrysler White's art and then facilitating discussion, asking students what might have inspired Ms. Chrysler White, and what technique the students think she may have used. Introduce the video by asking students to look for why and how Ms. White creates her work.

Art moves, inspires and touches us each in different ways, even when we are experiencing the same piece. In this lesson students will create a multi-media piece using decals and transferring paint to their artwork by first putting paint on brown paper or tissue such as Ms. Chrysler White does in the video.

### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- use a variety of media to create art
- explore lines, shape and texture
- compare/contrast texture
- use fine motor coordination
- critically evaluate images and describe, analyze and interpret works of art

### PROCEDURES

1. After students view the Susan Chrysler White video, explain to students that they will create a small piece of art using two of the techniques demonstrated by Ms. Chrysler White. The students will paint the background of their artwork or use colored paper.
2. Using paint in a squeeze bottle, students will create a design on brown paper or tissue paper as Ms. Chrysler White did in the video. Students should then transfer the design to their painting by flipping it over and rubbing the back of it with their hand. This can be done several times to yield the effect the student wants.

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IOWA'S  
CULTURAL  
+  
ARTISTIC  
LEGACY  
EVOLVES

Influence + Inspiration

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Susan Chrysler White



3. Complete the work by creating or choosing one or two magazine photos, drawings or words to add to the piece. Use a thin layer of glue or wet paint to adhere the decal to their piece. Ask students to choose these “decals” with the intent of provoking thought and opinions from others as they view the work.
4. Provide time for students to share their piece of work with peers, sharing their interpretations of each work, describing their inspiration and discussing techniques. Ask students to revisit the image introduced at the start of the lesson. Invite them to use their experience about the artist from the video to answer the three questions listed above.

## RESOURCES

### Internet

[www.susanchryslerwhite.com/](http://www.susanchryslerwhite.com/)

Ms. Chrysler White's web site

[www.callihan.com/art/popart.html](http://www.callihan.com/art/popart.html)

This site includes a Pop Art definition and various pieces of artwork. The site is identified by the artist as an influence in her paintings.

### Images

[www.littlejohncontemporary.com/White/index.html](http://www.littlejohncontemporary.com/White/index.html)

Paintings and insight into Susan Chrysler White's work

[www.uihealthcare.com/depts/projectart/artspeak/pdfs/susancw.pdf](http://www.uihealthcare.com/depts/projectart/artspeak/pdfs/susancw.pdf)

Susan Chrysler White photographs, quotes and images will be found at this site.

## National Standards | Iowa Standards

1. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
2. Using knowledge of structures and functions
3. Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas
4. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
6. Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines